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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,287	06/16/2006	Philippe Daudin	003D.0100.U1(US)	9815
29683 7590 05/15/2008 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212				
EXAMINER DINH, PHUONG K				
ART UNIT 2839		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 05/15/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/583,287

**Applicant(s)**

DAUDIN ET AL.

**Examiner**

Phuong KT Dinh

**Art Unit**

2839

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 8, 9 and 12-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

#### **Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
  - (1) Field of the Invention.
  - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ittah.

Regarding claims 1, 10, 11, 19, Ittah, see figures 8, 9, discloses an electric connector element comprising a housing 1 for receiving first and second contacts 11, a first locking device 12 adapted to directly lock only the first contacts 11 with the housing 1, which can move between a release position and a locking position for said first contacts 11, a second locking device 30 adapted to lock the second contacts with the housing 1, which can move between a release position and a locking position for said second contacts, characterized in that the electric connector element comprises means for preventing a maneuvering of the second locking device 30 when the first locking device 20 is not in the locking position for first contacts. Note that terms "first contacts" are read on these, figure 8 is lowest row and "second contacts" are read as referring to those in top and/ or middle row.

Regarding claim 2, Ittah, see figures 8, 9, discloses the first locking device 12 comprises a rotary flap provided with digits for holding the first contacts 11, crosswise to a direction of insertion of the first contacts 11 in the housing 1, and the second locking device 30 comprising a front grid provided with elements for holding the second contacts 11, directed towards the rear.

Regarding claim 7, Ittah, see figures 8-9, discloses the second locking device 30, in the locking position, comprises an element for preventing the maneuvering of the first

locking device 12 from in locking position toward its toward its release position for the first contacts 11.

Regarding claim 20, Ittah, see figures 8, 9, discloses an electric connector element comprising: a housing 1 which is sized and shaped to receive first contacts and second contacts 11, wherein the housing 1 comprises resiliently deflectable locking tabs (upper row 12) adapted to lock the second contacts 11 to the housing 1; a first locking device 12 for the first contacts 11, wherein the first locking device 12 is connected to the housing 1 to move between a release position and a locking position for the first contacts; and a second locking device 30 for the locking tabs (lower row 12), wherein the second locking device 30 is connected to the housing 1 to move between a release position and a locking position for the second contacts 11, and wherein in the locking position the second locking device prevents the locking tabs from disengaging with the second contacts 11, wherein the electric connector element comprises a system for preventing the second locking device from moving from the release position to the locking position for the second contacts 11 when the first locking device 12 is not in the locking position for first contacts 11.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 3-6, 8-9, 12-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claim 18 is allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
6. For claim 18, applicant's invention combination including: "at least one stop element, joined to the housing positioned in a path of an arm which is part of the second locking device and which opposes the manicuring of the second locking device from the release position towards the locking position for the second contacts" is not taught by Ittah.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed with the amendment have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
8. Applicant, on pages 10-11, argues that "the examiner indicate....the housing while locking key 30 forms a second locking device adapted to lock second contacts with the housing". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In rejection "only" single row of opposed locking member 12 to lock only contacts in one row "first contacts" are applied as the "first locking device". The part 30 is read as a mean for locking the remaining ones (second contacts) in the housing. Therefore Ittah adequate for claim 1.

9. Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant on page 12. Since it is not necessary to read first locking device on "all" locking member 12 the examiner can choose to read the term on only a select number of locking member 12 in stating the grounds of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phuong KT Dinh/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2839

Phuong Dinh  
May 12, 2008